

ARIZONA'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

Some facts:

- 25-33% of Arizona high school students do not graduate
- Arizona businesses have difficulty filling positions:
 - 6,452 Arizona employers had 52,871 job openings in February 2013
 - 1,045 of those jobs were in manufacturing
- Arizona's unemployment rate in February 2013 was 7.9%

What does that say about how we have prepared and continue to prepare Arizona high school students for today's and tomorrow's jobs?

It says there's a disconnect between what we're doing and what we need.

It says that Arizona's employers need to do a better job of articulating what they need.

It says that business needs to take an active role in improving our education system so that more students graduate and succeed.

- **Arizona and the U.S. compete in a global marketplace:**
 - * **We need to do a better job of enabling our workforce to succeed in better jobs**
 - * **Careers vs. minimum-wage jobs**

It's about our future!

What does business need from our schools?

- * Hard skills**
- * Soft skills**
- * A plan – ECAPs with sufficient funding**
- * CTE programs – they're doing something right:
90%+ graduation rates among CTE students**

What can business do to transform our schools?

- * Get involved in the discussion with parents, teachers and counselors**
- * Make it known what business needs and that it needs high school grads**
- * Get involved in local schools and STEM programs**



Arizona Skills Standards / Education Pathways to Career Skills

Mission:

To establish a system that creates and sustains a job-/career-skills certification program for the state of Arizona that supports growing business demands/employment prerequisite skills/economic expansion.

Arizona Manufacturing Partnership (AMP):

In association with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Arizona Manufacturers Council; Arizona Commerce Authority; and Arizona Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, form a non-profit alliance of Arizona manufacturers and educators, AMP.

This alliance will be focused initially on the manufacturing sector, with a specific focus on Arizona's aerospace and defense industries. The objective is to implement a statewide, education-validated, employer-endorsed portfolio of industry skill standards certifications, as piloted and developed by the Manufacturing Institute of the National Association of Manufacturers.



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The Authority on the Attraction, Qualification, and Development of World-Class Manufacturing Talent

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NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System

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Close the Skills Gap! Take Action Now!

- 82% of manufacturers report a moderate or serious shortage in skilled production workers.
- 75% of manufacturers say the skill shortage has negatively impacted their ability to expand.
- 600,000 jobs in manufacturing are unfilled today because employers can't find workers with the right skills.

To help close the growing skills gap, the Manufacturing Institute has launched the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System. This system of nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials validates both the "book smarts" and the "street smarts" needed to be productive and successful on the job. For more information, see the following sections:

- [Background on the Skills Certification System](#)

Institute Contacts



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84,738
Certifications Issued in 2011

 Credentialing the Manufacturing Workforce

A second objective of AMP is to identify and seek funding assistance for students to meet the cost of national career readiness programs and certification testing.

Our Arizona effort has moved aggressively from our joining together business with Arizona's top education leaders a little more than a year ago to now preparing to launch a statewide program to manufacturing employers at the May 31 Arizona Manufacturers Council's Manufacturer of the Year Summit in Phoenix.

Through the leadership of AMP and manufacturers united to assure a continuous supply of qualified, highly trained and career ready "certified" employees, Arizona will realize its goal of creating an ever-growing opportunity for high-paying, rewarding careers for its citizens. A system of certified skilled employees will aid and support economic development efforts to successfully attract more and more high-technology manufacturing operations to Arizona and help maintain the nation's position in the global economy.